

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS****1. (Currently Amended)** A detergent particle comprising:

a base detergent particle,

a base layer comprising a fine powder for forming a base layer and a binder, prepared by treating a surface of the base detergent particle with a fine powder dispersion, wherein the fine powder is dispersed in a binder and an average particle size of the fine powder is 0.1  $\mu$ m or more and 3  $\mu$ m or less, wherein said base layer is formed on a surface of the base detergent particle, and

a surface coating ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of a surface modifier, which is formed on the base layer.

**2. (Cancelled)**

3. (Original) The detergent particle according to claim 1, wherein an amount of the fine powder dispersion is from 0.5 to 5 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the base detergent particle.

4. (Original) The detergent particle according to claim 1, wherein a weight ratio of the fine powder to the binder in the fine powder dispersion is 1/40 or more and 1/10 or less.

5. (Original) The detergent particle according to claim 1, wherein the binder is at least one member selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, (meth)acrylic polymers, cellulose derivatives, aqueous solutions thereof.

6. (Original) The detergent particle according to claim 1, wherein the binder comprises a melting solution and/or aqueous solution of polyethylene glycol having a weight-average molecular weight of 4000 or more and 50000 or less.

7. (Original) The detergent particle according to claim 1, wherein the fine powder for

forming a base layer is at least one member selected from the group consisting of crystalline or amorphous aluminosilicates, calcium silicates, silicon dioxide, bentonite, talc, clay, amorphous silica derivatives, crystalline silicate compounds, metal soaps, and mixtures thereof.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The detergent particle according to claim 1, wherein the base detergent particle comprises a particle obtained by a process comprising mixing a spray-dried particle comprising substantially no surfactants with a surfactant mixed solution comprising one or more surfactants to support the surfactant mixed solution.

9. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing a detergent particle, comprising the steps of:  
treating a surface of a base detergent particle with a fine powder dispersion, thereby forming a base layer on the surface of the detergent particle, wherein the fine powder dispersion comprises a fine powder dispersed in a binder, and  
surface-coating the base layer with a surface modifier.

10. (Original) A fine powder dispersion for forming a base layer comprising a binder and a fine powder, wherein the fine powder is dispersed in the binder.

11. (Original) The detergent particle according to claim 1, wherein the fine powder dispersion further comprises a layered clay mineral and water.

12. (Original) The detergent particle according to claim 11, containing water in an amount of at least 1 part by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the fine powder dispersion.

13. **(Cancelled)**